

MORGANTOWN TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
HELD OCTOBER 7, 2021

The special meeting was called to order by the Council President, Penny Anderson at 7:00 p.m.

Present were Council members; Walter Abbott, Country Allen, Terry Poindexter, Vern Snyder and Council President, Penny Anderson.

Also present were; Town Attorney, Lee Robbins, Town Marshal, Ryan Swank, Utility Clerk, Becky Rose, DPW, Steve Rose and Kyle Rooks and Clerk Treasurer, Sharon McIntosh.

Special guests were; Lori Young the lead engineer with Curry & Associates and Bob Stent a representative with Lykins Constructions.

The purpose of the Public Meeting was to give the residents an opportunity to asked questions about the Town's current Wastewater project. Town Attorney, Lee Robbins explained to those in attendance the Wastewater system is some 60 years old and has reached itis useful life. An assessment was completed by the Town's engineer Curry & Associates and their recommendation was the lines needed to be replaced on a large section of the Town. The Town's financial advisor, Steve Brock worked to secure financing at a very low interest rate along with being awarded an OCRA Grant. This project has to be done as there are issues with the lines failing. The lines are cracked or broken which allows clean water or rain water to enter the treatment system and there is just too much water for the system to handle the flow.

Everyone on behalf of the Town realizes it the construction project is inconvenient for the residents. There have been some homeowners water lines broken as a part of this construction process. The Town tries to locate all those water lines and be as accurate as they can be but sometimes they can be off a little bit and during construction a line gets hit and broken. When this happens there is an opportunity for bacteria to enter the system. That is when Boil Orders are issued. The Council realizes this is an inconvenience to Town residents but in any project there are going to be disruptions.

The Council thought it would be a good idea to hold this meeting and give a status report on the project and respond to any questions residents might have.

Lori Young the lead engineer with Curry and Associates spoke to the residents about the project. She explained there is a new lift station at the Park. The construction has been slow

because there is a great deal of lines to cross. There is not a great deal of mapping so it is really challenging to locate the water lines.

Those attending were asked to limit their comments or questions to 5 minutes to give those who wanted to speak an opportunity to do so.

Several members of the audience asked questions about the project; restoring the owner's property after construction and paving the streets were addressed. These questions were answered by the Town Attorney, the engineer or the Lykins's contractor.

Lee Robbins explained to those attending that part of the project is replacing the laterals line from the resident's homes out to the sewer main. This is not typical to replace individual lines and that is because the Council voted to include replacing private laterals in the project. The laterals are old, the cost to a homeowner would be expensive and coordinating with each individual contractor and homeowner would be extremely difficult. Homeowners were asked to sign an easement for the Town to have access to replace and take care of the laterals.

Tim Akins on Marion Street said he did not have sewer but water and the construction company had hit his water line and broke the pipe. Tim said he was not going to pay the bill it was up to the Town or Lykins to pay the repair invoice. He was assured that the engineer would review the broken pipe to determine who is responsible for the repair bill.

There was a question about the schedule and when the construction will be on a resident's street. Lee Robbins said if there is a schedule it needed to be posted so everyone is aware of where they are on the construction. But keep in mind they may be running behind due to unforeseen issues.

Pam Fleetwood thanked DPW, Kyle Rooks for work he did on Pine Street. Pam wondered if the Town was going to be able to install more drains on Pine Street during this project. As far as this current project the Town is converting the sanitary to a storm system using 8 inch pipe so they cannot do a major drainage improvement at this time. The engineer said they have discussed the possibility of putting in an inlet there which might be a minor improvement but it will not eliminate the problem completely.

There was a question about paving the roads before the weather gets bad. It will be difficult if they are not paved for the snow plows and those driving vehicles on the streets. The contractor said it was not cost effective to pave the streets until they are finished.

There was a question about the valves that were replaced during the water project and why they cannot be turned off so the whole Town does not have to shut down. DPW Steve Rose said the valves must be exercised, they require maintenance like everything else. This has not been done in the past.

Joe Clephane said the Council did a good job concerning the wastewater project and he thanked the Council.

After all the questions were answered the meeting was adjourned.

October 7, 2021 minutes approved and signed on November 8, 2021

Sharon McIntosh

DATE 11/9/2021

ATTEST: CLERK TREASURER

SHARON MCINTOSH

Penny Anderson

TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT, PENNY ANDERSON

Walter Abbott

WALTER ABBOTT

Courtney Allen

COURTNEY ALLEN

VERN SNYDER

Terry Poindexter

TERRY POINDEXTER